



NUMBER 53

JULY 13, 1940

NEWS-KEY

Christian Front on Move	page 1
Brophy Leads the Way	" 2
Kansas Fuehrer Laments	" 3
Coughlin Finds Nazis Christian	" 4

nd St., New York
ere 5-2937-8
dress: ACANP

Number 53

July 13, 1940

BOOM IN CHRISTIAN FRONT

Leaders Point to Decision in Sedition Trial as
"Stimulant" -- Father Edward Brophy Assumes In-
creasingly Important Role in Front Activity

Father Charles E. Coughlin's prediction that the result of the recent acquittal of the nine Christian Fronters would be "that the Christian Front movement will emerge more vigorous and potent than ever" is already proving accurate. The meetings of the Fronters are being conducted with new verve, members of the organization are disseminating anti-Semitic propaganda with fresh enthusiasm, and a wide campaign has been undertaken for the enlargement of the Front and the increase of its political influence. According to the Fronters, the acquittal of their fellows is a vindication of the entire Christian Front program. While the trial was in progress, the Coughlinites were fearful of a verdict of guilty; and the result was a temporary let-up in their activities. Now, however, their anxiety has been dissipated and has, in fact, been replaced by extreme elation. Their open boast is that the acquittal proves the program of the Christian Front has "official sanction."

Father Coughlin Welcomes Plotters Back to Fold

Particularly significant has been the reaction of Father Coughlin himself to the decision. The July 1 issue of Social Justice was ready to go to press when the verdict was handed down. An editorial on the trial had already been written (while the trial was still in progress). Appearing on page 13 of the publication, it was entitled "The 'Christian Front' Case." It inferred that the "14 young men charged with conspiracy against the Government of the United States" did not really represent the policies of the Christian Front and its mentor Charles Coughlin. According to the Royal Oak priest, "anti-Christian elements" had attempted to label the trial as a Christian Front case in order to discredit that organization. In the words of his editorial:

"Despite all efforts of this National Magazine, and of the official statements by Government attorneys and the F. B. I., this trial is still known throughout the newspapers of this country as the 'Christian Front' case."

In short, the circumspect radio priest was worried about and was making preparations for a verdict of guilty -- in which case he would point to his July 1 editorial as proof that he himself had disowned the defendants as members of his clan.

When, on June 25, word of the verdict reached Royal Oak, it was too late to change that editorial; and there was a certain amount of consternation at the Shrine of the Little Flower. However, the resourcefulness of Coughlin arose to the emergency. The front page of Social Justice was reset to carry in huge heavy type this headline: **"NOT GUILTY, CHRISTIAN FRONTERS CLEARED OF CHARGES -- U. S. Jury Exonerates All the Christians Accused of Conspiracy."**

Thus, as soon as Cassidy & Company were found "not guilty," Father Coughlin rushed to recognize them as his followers. The result was something of a journalistic oddity: the same issue of Social Justice which editorializes against applying the term Christian Front to the trial of the fourteen plotters, uses as a front-page headline the very label to which it so strenuously objects!

THE RISE OF FATHER BROPHY

In the new Christian Front drive, Father Edward F. Brophy of the Precious Blood Church, Long Island City, New York, is playing an increasingly important role. The fascist sentiments of this priest have for some time been unconcealed. Long an ardent admirer of Father Coughlin, whom he has compared to Washington and Jefferson, his extra-official activities have included periodic addresses to such groups as the Paul Revere Sentinels, the Christian Civil Liberties Committee and the Christian Front Boycott Committee. More recently, Father Brophy has appeared as a character witness at the trial of Joseph E. McWilliams and has been quoted in the press as saying that Mrs. Titus, foreman of the Federal jury which acquitted the plot defendants, is his first cousin and is "very friendly to the Christian Front." Father Brophy's anti-Semitism is so pronounced that even those most militant anti-Semites the Christian Mobilizers find no shortcomings in the priest. On July 1 at an American Destiny Party meeting it was announced that the Jew-hating Father would be a chief speaker at a gala meeting at Ebling's Casino on July 10. Later, this meeting was cancelled when the owners of the Casino refused the use of the hall to Mobilizer-chieftain McWilliams, consequent to the latter's arrest and conviction for disturbing the peace.

Christian Front Gets New Bible

Father Brophy's latest contribution to the cause is a printed booklet entitled "The Christian Front." This fifty-six page booklet, attractively bound and displaying on its cover the symbol of a cross over an American flag, has just gone on sale at all Christian Front meetings. Its price is fifteen cents and the frontispiece carries this patriotic statement: "Proceeds to be devoted to the support of Christian Americanism."

The booklet opens with a Foreword in which the Father piously observes, "If you be a Christian, dear Reader, reflect on the value of your Christian heritage... And, dear Reader, if you be a non-Christian read on with an open and a fair mind." The first half of the booklet is devoted

to the subject of "The Christian Front -- Its Justification and Its Need." Father Brophy poses this question: "Is there a Fascist Front in the U. S.?" His answer is that there is none. However, he goes on to say, there is a Communist Front and there is a Jewish Front; and in order to combat the dangers emanating from the Communist Front and from the "bad elements" in the Jewish Front (as well as from "the trade union leaders"), a Christian Front is essential. The purpose of such an organization is "to unite in a common front all Christian-Americans worthy of the name for the defense of their cultural inheritance;" membership is extended only to those who are "male, Christian and citizen either by birth or naturalization."

The second half of the booklet is divided into three sections. The first of these sections is called "An Aggressive Element of the Jewish Front" and consists of a tirade against the Jewish Examiner. The second section is entitled "One of the Many Subtle Specimens of Propaganda" and seeks to prove that the Jews were responsible for the death of Christ and that they are now trying to deny their guilt. The third is headed "Wolves in the Clothing of Sheep -- Whitened Sepulchers, fair without, but, within, rottenness and dead men's bones;" this section includes a violent attack on Bertrand Russell and attempts to establish that his sole support came from "Jewish Rabbis."

It is not difficult to understand why this volume has been enthusiastically acclaimed by the Christian Fronters. They look upon it as their own special bible. In fact some of them already fondly refer to it as a "baby Mein Kampf."

* * * * *

WINROD PRESENTS HIS "CASE"

On June 19, 1940, Mrs. Gerald B. Winrod was granted a divorce from her husband, familiarly known as the "Kansas Hitler." Mrs. Winrod testified that her husband intends to be "nominal head of the country when the revolution comes" and that "he wanted to take me to a secret hideout so I would be protected when the Government closed in on him." Winrod, somewhat chagrined by this testimony, has issued to his followers a statement giving his side of the case.

The statement is in the form of a mimeographed letter entitled "A Personal Message to the Defender Family." The letter is too long to quote in full, but the following sections are indicative of the general content:

Dear Christian Friend:

This will be an exceedingly difficult letter for me to write, but I feel that I owe it to my thousands of friends to do so. ...

I returned home three weeks ago, from a five week's preaching tour through the South, to walk into a storm which could not possibly have been anticipated. I was never in better spirits....

I had only been back a few hours when strange things, over which I had no control, began to happen. A Jewish-owned, Jewish edited newspaper here in Wichita saw an opportunity to administer a blow below the belt. Streams of lies began to go to the Nation through "controlled" press and radio channels.

I then allowed myself to testify under oath, denouncing these untruths. ... When the one closest to me, whom I had learned to love, apparently took sides with enemies in an unexpected manner, I was too shocked to even express my feelings. ...

It is not pleasant to be betrayed, maligned, misrepresented, lied about, persecuted -- but in Gethsemane, my Lord drank the dregs in the bottom of the cup. We have the promise: "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him."

... In closing, I earnestly request friends to remember us in a special prayer at this particular time. Kindly read every word of the material coming to you in this envelope, and resolve to do something to help us, so that this great work for the Lord and Master will not suffer. WE NEED YOUR HELP. Won't you let us hear from you right away?

Your Brother in Christ,
(signed) Gerald B. Winrod

Included with "the material coming to you in this envelope" is a form which reads: "Dear Dr. Winrod: Enclosed find a voluntary contribution of \$____, to be used as you know best. ... I am praying for the work." A return envelope is enclosed for the convenience of those who want to brighten these dark hours for the Wichita fuhrer.

* * * * *

COUGHLIN ON NAZISM AND CHRISTIANITY

On July 1, in an article purporting to analyze foreign affairs, this illuminating comment appeared in Social Justice:

"The Great Reich ... numerically and from the viewpoint of population statistics and religious avowal, is the world's leading Christian nation. Chancellor Hitler would find it difficult, even if he desired, to stamp out Christianity even in his own country, and especially when flanked with an ally such as Catholic Italy and a semi-ally such as Catholic Spain. That he even wants to do so has not been established."

NOTE: The Hour wishes to call the attention of its readers to its new address, 100 East 42nd Street, New York City.